

REMARKS

The statement by the Examiner that claims 20, 22, 31 and 34 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 19, 20, 22, 27, 29, 31 and 34 have been amended. New claims 39-44 have been added. Claims 19-44 are pending in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. According to the Office Action, it is not clear how the image capturing device has a network interface. Claim 27 has been amended. The concern raised in the Office Action has been addressed by the amendment to claim 27. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 19, 21, 23-30, 32, 33 and 35-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobori. The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 recites an image handling apparatus. That apparatus includes, among other things, “a plurality of input interfaces for inputting image data; a first selector for selecting one of said input interfaces for providing a first image data; a storage device for storing a plurality of stored images; a second selector for selecting as a second image data one of said plurality of stored images based on a user input selection; a device for combining said first image data and said second image data to produce a third image data; and a third selector for selecting one of a plurality of receiving devices to receive said third image data” (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that Kobori fails to disclose the claimed invention.

Kobori discloses a video printer system that is capable of printing stored digital signals on separate areas of a page. This way, multiple images can be printed on the same page. Kobori also discloses a video printer that receives plural input images from cameras 1, 27. The analog video images received from the cameras 1, 27 are combined in the analog domain by a combining circuit 4, converted into digital form by an analog-to-digital converter 8, and combined (by circuit 9) with digital data from a personal computer 7. The combined digital data is provided to a memory system comprising plural memories. Access to the plural memories are controlled by switches 28, 151, 152, 153, and 154 such that one memory may be used to drive one of plural output devices while another memory may be accessed by the circuit 9. Each memory may be selectively coupled to one of the plural output devices, which include a digital-to-analog converter 14 for driving a monitor 15 and a line memory 19, which operates with a half tone circuit 18 to drive a printer 17.

In Kobori, the combining circuit 4 combines analog RGB data from both cameras 1 and 27. See, e.g., Fig. 11. Accordingly, Kobori fails to disclose or suggest any mechanism for “selecting as a second image data one of said plurality of stored images based on a user input selection” as recited in claim 19. This claim feature, among others, is simply not found in Kobori. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is allowable over Kobori.

Claims 21 and 23-28 depend from claim 19 and are allowable along with claim 19 for at least the reasons set forth above and on their own merits.

Claim 29 recites an image handling method. According to claim 29, the method comprises “first selecting one of a plurality of input interfaces for receiving a first image data; second selecting one of a plurality of stored images as a second image data based on a user input selection; combining said first image data and said second

image data to produce a third image data; and third selecting one of a plurality of receiving devices to receive said third image data” (emphasis added).

As set forth above, Kobori fails to disclose or suggest any mechanism for “selecting one of a plurality of stored images as a second image data based on a user input selection” as recited in claim 29. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 29 is allowable over Kobori. Claims 30, 32, 33 and 35-38 depend from claim 29 and are allowable along with claim 29 for at least the reasons set forth above and on their own merits.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 19, 21, 23-30, 32, 33 and 35-38 allowed.

Claims 20, 22, 31 and 34 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are otherwise allowable. Pursuant to the Examiner’s recommendation, claims 20, 22, 31 and 34 have been redrafted as independent claims including the limitations of their respective base and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20, 22, 31 and 34 are allowable.

New claims 39-44 have been added to round out the scope of the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that objection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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